

Serial No. 09/009,083
Docket No. YOR919970451US1
YOR.207

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REMARKS

An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter for one (1) excess independent claim is attached hereto.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courteous and productive telephone interviews on March 1, 2, and 3, 2005, in which the Examiner indicated the above changes would place the case into condition for allowance and in keeping with the Board of Appeals Decision reversing the Examiner as to claims 1-13 and 18-20, and sustaining the Examiner as to the rejection of claims 14-17.

Claims 1-13 and 18-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 14-17 have been canceled. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-13 and 18-20 would be allowable if claims 18-20 were rewritten in independent form.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

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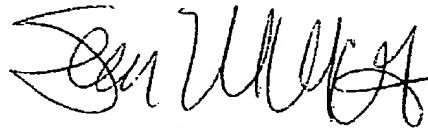
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FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-13 and 18-20, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,



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